

Senate Resolution 773

By: Senators Islam Parkes of the 7th, Butler of the 55th, Rahman of the 5th, Merritt of the 9th, Esteves of the 6th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the celebration of Navroz, the month of Ramadan, and the
2 Shia Ismaili Muslim community residing in and contributing to the State of Georgia; and for
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, March 21 marks the celebration of Navroz, which signifies the beginning of the
5 Persian New Year and the spring equinox, the first day of spring, and is commemorated by
6 diverse cultures and communities in Georgia and around the world, including the local Shia
7 Ismaili Muslim community; and

8 WHEREAS, this celebration of Navroz signifies a time of spiritual renewal and physical
9 rejuvenation as well as a spirit of gratitude for blessings and an outlook of peace, hope, and
10 optimism; and

11 WHEREAS, the global Muslim community, or Ummah, is observing the holy month of
12 Ramadan, during which the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him and his family)
13 received the first revelation of the Quran; and

14 WHEREAS, Ramadan is a time of heightened commitment to piety and purification through
15 special observances, including fasting, the performance of good deeds, charitable giving,

16 voluntary service, and personal sacrifices of material comforts, leading to spiritual fulfillment
17 and a sense of renewal; and

18 WHEREAS, Ismaili Muslims make up a culturally diverse and global community of
19 approximately 15 million individuals who adhere to a 1,400 year tradition of Shia Ismaili
20 Muslim values, led by His Highness the Aga Khan, the living Imam or spiritual leader; and

21 WHEREAS, the Ismaili community contributes to Georgia's success through knowledge
22 sharing, economic development, civic engagement, environmental stewardship, and
23 voluntary service; and

24 WHEREAS, Ismaili CIVIC is the global voluntary service organization for the Ismaili
25 community, exemplifying Islam's core values of service, peace, compassion, and care for the
26 vulnerable with service through memorandums of understanding and partnerships with local
27 organizations, including The American Red Cross of Georgia, the Atlanta Community Food
28 Bank, New American Pathways, and The King Center, as well as with interfaith groups such
29 as Interfaith Atlanta and Georgia Interfaith Power & Light; and

30 WHEREAS, through Ismaili CIVIC's commitment to environmental stewardship, on Global
31 Ismaili CIVIC Day, over 43,000 volunteers, a majority of whom were youth, engaged in over
32 900 activities in 31 countries to combat climate change with an environmental impact
33 resulting in the eventual reduction of around 400 tons of CO₂, achieved through the planting
34 of over 15,000 trees, clean-ups of waterways, the establishment of micro-forests, green-space
35 maintenance efforts, and recycling programs, which removed nearly 20,000 pounds of waste
36 and aimed at reducing plastic use and environmental toxins; and

37 WHEREAS, in Georgia, Ismaili CIVIC volunteers organized interfaith waterway and
38 green-space clean-ups, acting on our shared ethics of service and environmental stewardship,
39 in Fulton, Gwinnett, Cobb, and Fayette counties by removing trash from local streams,
40 clearing invasive species, and planting native trees, grasses, and flowers.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
42 recognize and commend the Shia Ismaili Muslim Community for their contributions to the
43 State of Georgia and the planet as well as commemorate the month of Ramadan and Navroz
44 on March 21, 2024.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
46 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
47 press.